

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously presented) An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

44. (Previously presented) An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 43.

49. (Previously presented) An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 44.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein,

wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 46.

52. (Previously amended) The peptide or protein of claim 43 obtained by a method comprising sequentially treating a tissue extract containing a lectin:

(a) with pepsin or at an acidic pH to remove a majority of contaminating proteins while retaining lectinic activity,

(b) by chromatography using SEPHACRYL S-200<sup>®</sup> (gel filtration media with a fractionation range of 5,000-250,000 daltons for globular proteins),

(c) by chromatography using diethylaminoethyl cellulose,

(d) by chromatography using CM-TRISACRYL-M<sup>®</sup> (gel filtration media with a fractionation range of 200-2,500 daltons),

(e) by affinity chromatography using N-acetylneuraminic acid as a ligand, and

(f) by reversed-phase high pressure liquid chromatography to separate the peptide or protein.

53. (Previously amended) The peptide or protein of claim 52, wherein 55 kd and 14 kd bands are recovered if the peptide or protein is subjected to sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

54. (Previously amended) A method for obtaining the peptide or protein of claim 43 comprising sequentially treating a tissue extract containing a lectin:

(a) with pepsin or at an acidic pH to remove a majority of contaminating proteins while retaining lectinic activity,

(b) by chromatography using SEPHACRYL S-200<sup>®</sup> (gel filtration media with a fractionation range of 5,000-250,000 daltons for globular proteins),

(c) by chromatography using diethylaminoethyl cellulose,

(d) by chromatography using CM-TRISACRYL-M<sup>®</sup> (gel filtration media with a fractionation range of 200-2,500 daltons), and

(e) by affinity chromatography using N-acetylneuraminic acid as a ligand.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein (d) is conducted:

(i) using a first buffer to remove the majority of contaminating albumin, and

(ii) using a second buffer to elute the lectin.

~~56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the ligand is attached to an agarose gel column, and (e) is conducted:~~

~~(i) using a first buffer to elute the lectin, and~~

~~(ii) using a second buffer to remove the majority of contaminating proteins.~~

57. (Previously amended) The method of claim 54, comprising, after (e), treating the extract by high pressure liquid chromatography.

58. (Previously amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the high pressure liquid chromatography is conducted using water/acetonitrile/trifluoroacetic acid.

59. (Previously amended) The method of claim 58, wherein 65 kd, 55 kd, and 14 kd bands are recovered if a fraction corresponding to the main peak obtained during the high pressure liquid chromatography is subjected to sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously presented) A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 43.

62. (Previously presented) A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 44.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously presented) A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 46.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously presented) A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 48.

67. (Previously presented) A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 49.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously presented) A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 51.

70. (Canceled)

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 43.

73. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent of claim 72, further comprising interleukin-2.

74. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 44.

75. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent of claim 74, further comprising interleukin-2.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently amended) ~~The therapeutic agent of claim 76, further comprising interleukin-2~~ A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising (i) an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, (ii) interleukin-2, and (iii) a pharmaceutical excipient.

78. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 46.

79. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent of claim 78, further comprising interleukin-2.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Canceled)

82. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising an isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

83. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent of claim 82, further comprising interleukin-2.

84. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 49.

85. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent of claim 84, further comprising interleukin-2.

86. (Canceled)

87. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising an isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, and further comprising interleukin-2.

88. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 48.

89. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent of claim 88, further comprising interleukin-2.

90. (Canceled)

91. (Canceled)

92. (Canceled)

93. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, in monomer or dimer form.

94. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, in monomer or dimer form.

95. (Canceled)

96. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, in monomer or dimer form.

97. (Canceled)

98. (Previously amended) A method of stimulating the immune system, comprising administering, to a subject in need of such stimulation, an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, and a pharmaceutical excipient.

99. (Previously amended) A method of stimulating the immune system, comprising administering, to a subject in need of such stimulation, an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, and a pharmaceutical excipient.

100. (Canceled)

101. (Previously amended) A method of stimulating the immune system, comprising administering, to a subject in need of such stimulation, an isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, and a pharmaceutical excipient.

102. (Canceled)

103. (Previously amended) A therapeutic agent as claimed in claim 72, additionally comprising a pharmaceutical excipient.

104. (Previously amended) A therapeutic agent as claimed in claim 74, additionally comprising a pharmaceutical excipient.

105. (Previously amended) A therapeutic agent as claimed in claim 78, additionally comprising a pharmaceutical excipient.

106. (Canceled)

107. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent according to claim 103,  
formulated for parenteral administration.

108. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent according to claim 104,  
formulated for parenteral administration.

109. (Previously presented) A therapeutic agent according to claim 105,  
formulated for parenteral administration.